

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Dec 4 17:18:06 1994
Date: Sun, 4 Dec 1994 14:53:57 -0500
From: stv@world.std.com (Steve L Pitts)
Message-Id: <199412041953.AA23474@world.std.com>
Subject: Re: Activity

--- Chuck Adams wrote -----

> But do not despair for I have another idea for your consideration.
> How about a nightly Amateur QRP Hour, i.e. you get your favorite
> QRP rig on the air at 8pm local time on the band of your choice on
> the QRP calling frequencies. It will do the following:
>
> 1. Get QRPers to get on the air more. You spend too much time building.
> 2. Help us hold our favorite frequencies.
> 3. Get more people to see QRPers at work.
> 4. Check out propagation and increase you code speed on CW
> or improve your voice on SSB. You digital guys are going
> to have to declare a frequency between 7.075 and 7.100MHz
> on 40M as a QRP digital meeting place. This will help you
> on your typing speed. Also for the other bands, I just
> use 40M as an example.
> 5. No awards, just fun.
> 6. We can make 0300-0400UTC the Internet QRP hour. (or whatever)
> How about an Internet DAY? December 31? I may try SKN this
> year. I do have one, a straight key. :-)

This sounds like a great idea to me Chuck. Although I may have to learn to hold my soldering iron in my teeth while I am operating. Sure can't slow down the flow of solder just to get on the air more often :-)

Steve

Steve Pitts, KC7FII
stv@world.std.com
71045,563
Steve Pitts KC7FII, stv@world.std.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Dec 4 22:16:51 1994
Message-Id: <199412050021.QAA19502@wv.mentorg.com>
Date: 4 Dec 1994 16:18:50 U
From: "Larry Mull" <Larry_Mull@pdxml2.mentorg.com>
Subject: First DX !

First DX !

12/4/94

3:27

PM

Hello everyone,

Well, it has been a fun week for QRP and ham radio in this neck of the woods. It started on Thursday when my 13 year old and I both passed upgrade exams! He is now /AG and I was very lucky and am now /AE!

Saturday morning my son was playing with his new band privileges and had cw QSOs on 20 and 30 meters with hams in Illinois. (QTH hear is near Portland, Or.) The bands seemed very open. He was running about 40 watts using the Ten Tec Argosy. He was totally pumped by these QSOs!

I spent Saturday evening adding a few mods to my NorCal40 that Wayne suggested in the latest QRPP. They seem to work great, and I really appreciate less hiss in the audio. So I finally got on the air Sunday a.m. and started listening in the extra segment. I heard JA2BL calling CQ DX on about 7.015MHz. After three responses he got me - my first DX contact!!! It was a short QSO with the DX station being hammered by QRN, but what a blast!!!

My antenna is a 132' inverted V dipole fed with 450 ohm ladder line from a MFJ 901 tuner. My NorCal40 is running 5 watts from mods I had done earlier this year. RST's were 459 for me and 579 for my contact. We did not exchange rig and antenna info, so I don't know what my contact was running. I did close the QSO letting him know I was running QRP.

This was really great fun!

A question: The audio on my NorCal has had a pronounced thump ever since I cranked up the power. Any suggestions for getting rid of this?

Have a great week!

73,

Larry KB7ZNE/AE

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Dec 4 22:09:42 1994

Date: Sun, 4 Dec 1994 17:40:25 -0700 (MST)

From: Robert Cutter <bcutter@csn.org>

Subject: HW-9 Finals

Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9412041714.A23499-0100000@teal.csn.org>

I seem to have injured the finals in my HW-9.

The manual says a MRF 237, however I do not find that listed in DigiKey. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

72, Bob KI0G

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Dec 4 23:19:17 1994
From: rohrwerk@holonet.net
Date: Sun, 4 Dec 1994 17:32:07 -0800
Message-Id: <199412050132.RAA12363@holonet.net>
Subject: Ladder line comments

On 11-30-94 ddoyle@arinc.com wrote to qrp-l@netcom.com:

- > As mentioned before one big advantage of ladder line is that all or
- > mostly all of the power is radiated even when using a tuner, unlike
- > coax where the tuner actually eats up some of the power.

Actually, it's the higher loss of coax under non-matched conditions that "eats up" the power, not the tuner.

- > Lets look at
- > why this is. Assuming a wire antenna for simplicity the wire is
- > resonant as some frequency. If a different frequency is selected and
- > matched with a tuner then the ladder line itself makes up part of the
- > antenna and radiates signal.

Only if your tuner does not provide a *TRUE* balanced output. This is the rub. With a tuner that REALLY puts out balanced CURRENTS, the line does not radiate significantly. I know this because I got much less RF flying around the shack when I used a balanced, symmetrical tuner with a choke balun on the INPUT.

- > I'm not really a very technical person
- > so I'll leave the detailed technical explanation for those who are.
- > This radiation effect is really great unless you have a significant
- > amount of ladder line in you shack. This makes for RF floating around
- > in your shack big time! I'm sure there are ways of minimizing the RF
- > in this case.

Like I said -- true balanced feed!

- > My point is that a ladder line installation is not as
- > straight forward as coax. In my case I had to run about 20ft of ladder
- > line inside my shack was pretty bad.
- >
- > Also to be considered, what is the ladder line going to come close to
- > or lay up against in it run from you tuner to the antenna? Walls,
- > gutters, floors etc. will effect the SWR and efficiency of the
- > installation.

Not by much, unless it's metallic.

- > A suggestion is to run ladder line from the antenna

> down to a balun mounted on the outside of the shack then running coax
> from you radio/tuner out to the balun. One drawback here is that the
> balun has to be tuned to the band you want to operate on.

Baluns operating in an unmatched, reactive line (the usual case with a multiband wire antenna and a tuner) don't do their job well. This despite the fact that many commercial tuners actually provide their so-called "balanced" output with such a balun on the output! So will you really have less RF floating around with that length of coax? Maybe not.

```
: John Seboldt  rohrwerk@holonet.net /   I am Bach of Borg...  
: Amateur radio K0JD...                /   your style will be  
: Church of the Annunciation,          /   assimilated.  
: Minneapolis                               /
```

-> Alice4Mac 2.3 E QWK Eval:05Mar94

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Dec 5 00:56:53 1994

Message-Id: <199412050252.AA14598@rhumba.opal.com.au>

From: Paul Taylor <pt@opal.com.au>

Subject: QRP Humour

Date: Mon, 5 Dec 94 13:50:58 EDT

> Q. How many QRPers does it take to change a light bulb?

> A. All of them...one to change it and the rest to argue about whether it's too bright.

Other answers:

A. Being a QRP light bulb, noone even notices amongst the QRO lights that it has blown!

A. The bulb never gets changed because all the QRP-ers are too busy discussing philosophy on the internet to notice!

A. It takes one *genuine* QRPer one year to:

a) select a ribbon shaped piece of tungsten from the local scrap metal yard, and work out a way of winding it around a 10inch nail without breaking it;

b) learn the art of glass blowing in order to produce a suitable envelope;

c) reverse the vacuum cleaner motor so that it creates a vacuum in a spare broom cupboard;

d) learn how to hold one's breath inside a vacuum in a broom cupboard whilst soldering tungsten filaments to copper wire from mains wiring onto a recycled bayonet cap from an old blown bulb, whilst applying silicon rubber to seal the glass tube, and

e) an additional 6 months to write up the QRP-bulb project for each of the QRP mags, put together kits, issue reprints, answer beginner's questions, fly accross the country giving presentations.

8^) 72 from a very long way away...

Paul Taylor, VK3BLY
Melbourne, Australia. (NOT Florida!)

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Dec 4 18:20:51 1994
Date: Sun, 4 Dec 1994 14:01:34 -0600 (CST)
From: Rudy Hardy <rudyh@tenet.edu>
Subject: QRP Plus
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9412041358.B28266-0100000@Joyce-Perkins.tenet.edu>

Can anyone give me any information about the QRP Plus qrp SSB/CW transceiver?
I have seen the radio advertised in 73 magazine and it has drawn my attention. I guess my main question is, is it worth the money?

Thanks,
Rudy Hardy, WB5UUK, Houston, Texas
rudyh@tenet.edu

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Dec 4 12:47:40 1994
From: K7YHA@aol.com
Date: Sun, 4 Dec 1994 10:40:41 -0500
Message-Id: <941204103900_5316910@aol.com>
Subject: Re: radiokit

OK....it's agreed. We give ADDITIONAL bonus points in the HB sprints for those who use the RadioKit rigs.

72 rich

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Dec 4 13:31:32 1994
From: K7YHA@aol.com
Date: Sun, 4 Dec 1994 10:37:23 -0500
Message-Id: <941204103721_5316207@aol.com>

Subject: Re: Re "Real QRP"

Danny Eskanize (sp) K7SS, is the person you are refering to. He is an outstanding contester with a sense of humor that almost matches mine! As a guest op (for four years) at the East Anglia Contest Club station (GB4ANT) in the UK, I had occasion to contest with several of the lads who know K7SS personally. More on that off-line. The only thing that the ETO ads prove is Danny needs money, like all of us!

AND.....Life IS too short for \$800 finals!

72 rich

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Dec 4 20:33:17 1994
Date: Sun, 4 Dec 1994 13:35:53 -0700 (MST)
From: Rick Zabrodski <zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca>
Subject: Re: Re "Real QRP"
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.941204133156.29191B-100000@ume>

Lets talk about antennas and "real qrp"

I took down my tribander and but up a no compromise 20 m monobander for the next 3 or 4 years and shunt loaded the tower for 40 thru 160.....these changes have clearly improved my ERP and made it much easier to hear you guys running five watts to a shoe string, long wire or mini loop on the balcony etc etc.....WHERE IS IT WRITTEN THAT QRP MEANS USING SMALL, INEFFECIENT ANTENNAS?

Dr. Rick Zabrodski BSc, MD, CCFP(E) * VE6GK
EMAIL: zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca *
Packet: VE6GK@VE6YYC.#cgy.ab.can.na * "Power is no subsititute
Phone: (403) 271-5123 Fax: 225-1276 * for skill."

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Dec 4 21:58:32 1994
From: JimN00CT@aol.com
Date: Sun, 4 Dec 1994 19:36:03 -0500
Message-Id: <941204193531_5642044@aol.com>
Subject: Re: Re "Real QRP"

Regarding Mike's most recent comments:

Life's too short for \$800 finals.

QRP: brains over brawn

QRO is for sissies!

there are others out there.....

73, 74, whatever it takes.....Jim N00CT

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Dec 4 19:34:24 1994
From: fuseki!mtewe!vodall@hprwp.fc.hp.com
Message-Id: <m0rENj9-0002dKC@mtewe.kevin.mt.us>
Subject: Real QRP
Date: Sun, 4 Dec 1994 13:40:09 -0700 (MST)

- Some folks use commercial rigs with the power reduced.
- Some folks buy and build QRP kits.
- Some folks build projects out of magazines.
- Some folks design and build their own equipment.

Those that do any of the above "win". They've having fun with the hobby and expanding their horizons. The more we do - the more we "win."

The contests will never really be fair. The operator using a turned-down \$5K rig to a pair of stacked YAGI's at 100' might get more points than the station with a Two'er built from Radio Shack parts loading a grounded bed-spring - but I know who'll get the biggest kick out of each contact.

--

Bill

Temporary-Reply-To: vodall%mtewe%fuseki@hprwp.fc.hp.com
Reply-To: vodall@bigsky.dillon.mt.us
Amateur Packet: wa7nwp@n7see.mt.usa.noam

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Dec 4 14:10:22 1994
From: K7YHA@aol.com
Date: Sun, 4 Dec 1994 11:01:04 -0500
Message-Id: <941204110103_5324692@aol.com>
Subject: Tejas RF Technologies

I just talked to Bill Hickox, K5BDZ, owner of Tejas. He stated that he is still selling kits of the Backpacker-II that he has packaged. Once these are

gone, Tejas will be out of the kit business. Tejas has a commercial side that will still function, but the amateur radio kit side of the business will cease to function when the last of the current crop of pre-packaged kits are sold.

This is an unfortunate turn of events, because I have built a 20 M Backpacker and it works very well. I used a 40 M version about 2 years ago and it also performed well.

Bill does have some parts kits available, so contact him if you need parts or want to order a Backpacker.

72 rich

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Dec 5 02:25:21 1994
From: David Johnson <djohnson@acpub.duke.edu>
Message-Id: <199412050454.XAA16887@bio7.acpub.duke.edu>
Subject: Thanks for hw-9 info!
Date: Sun, 4 Dec 1994 23:54:45 -0500 (EST)

Hey Gang:

Thanks for the pointers on HW-9 info, to many on the list who responded. Please all who responded accept this collective thank you, and please don't be offended that I don't reply individually. Special thanks to Rick, but there were many others. I will tell my friend to try to get the 'Hot Water Handbook' from Mike Bryce.

Still trying to find out the identity of the 8-pin audio amp chip though (U306), and a source for the MC1349P.

This list is great!

Didn't work the contest today, as I was too busy changing my main hf antenna. Had up the MB1A from the Ant Farm. It worked pretty well on 80-10m, but I decided to put up my homebrew flat-top fed with 450-ohm ladder line. I had used the latter antenna at the previous location and it seemed to work fine, so I expect (hope) it will do about as well as the MB1A. Main reason for the change is that I really wanted to be running a homebrew antenna! Haha! (qrp spirit, y'know).

Did get to do some operating in the 160m contest, qrp of course. 7 states with 4 watts from the kenwood ts440, using my inverted L. Was VERY fun. But a week or so ago netted a qso on 160 to NJ, using 37 microwatts on

the same antenna. That's over 2 million miles per watt!
I almost can't believe it but have really pretty good
power measuring capability now with the o'scope. Actually
have had the o'scope for years, but finally figured out
how to get rid of a pesky vibration in all the displayed
signals. The vibration was present even on the internal
signal standard. It prevented high-resolution measure-
ments. It disappeared when I swith both channel one and
two buttons on in the mode selector switchblock, even
though I use just one channel. Now those switches just
stay that way! Before, I thought I was getting low
output from the Sierra, but now measurements indicate
the following more reasonable results:
1w on 20m, 1.3w on 30m, 1.6w on 40m, and 2.3w on 80m.

Have fun hammin' !!

Dave.

--

David W. Johnson	Power is no substitute for skill
Amateur Extra WA4NID	QRP ARCI 6546
email: djohnson@acpub.duke.edu	G-QRP 4864
packet WA4NID@KB4WGA.NC.USA.NA	NorCal 355

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Dec 4 19:06:16 1994
Date: Sun, 4 Dec 1994 11:43:48 -0800 (PST)
From: "H. Ward Silver" <hwardsil@seattleu.edu>
Subject: True Zen QRP
Message-Id: <Pine.3.07.9412041148.A14242-b100000@bach.seattleu.edu>

It's pretty easy to tell what the logical end-result of all the "who's
purer than who" discussion. Obviously, only an SWL can lay full claim to
the rightful True QRPer title. They have NO transmitted power, thus
finessing all of the argument about ERP. Now let's argue about whether
the use of antennas other than the loopstick or whip that comes with the
receiver allows one to be a True SWL. Gee, can you even extend the whip?
Perhaps I shouldn't even turn the radio ON! Then, no power is consumed
whatsoever.

Yes! This is the answer! True Zen QRP...contemplative radio only...what
is the sound of one key tapping?

How many QRPers does it take to change a light bulb? All of them...one to
change it and the rest to argue about whether it's too bright.

This humor is represented to be funny only to the originator and his
express assigns. Use of the humor to induce jollity in others is

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Some Transcendental Number between 72 and 73...
Ward, N0AX

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Dec 4 22:35:43 1994
From: rohrwerk@holonet.net
Date: Sun, 4 Dec 1994 17:32:16 -0800
Message-Id: <199412050132.RAA12365@holonet.net>
Subject: Twin Lead -vs- Ladder Lin

On 12-01-94 bhowle@freud.inst.com wrote to qrp-l@netcom.com:

> While wondering aimlessly around the hardware store yesterday I came
> across a dusty roll of 300 ohm twin lead that I bought for a marked
> down price of fifty cents - this is the same stuff we used to use for
> television antenna lead in wire. Question - I should be able to use
> this at QRP power levels shouldn't I? . . . even though it's not
> 'ladder line.
>
> Bob / WA4ZID
>

Well, it's a more solid dielectric than ladder line, and therefore higher loss.
I have used it -- when I got enthused about radio again and couldn't wait to go to a dealer that had ladder line, but instead contented myself with a trip to the local Rat Shack -- but I am far more assured of low loss with ladder line.

: John Seboldt	rohrwerk@holonet.net	/	I am Bach of Borg...
: Amateur radio	K0JD...	/	your style will be
: Church of the	Annunciation,	/	assimilated.
: Minneapolis		/	

-> Alice4Mac 2.3 E QWK Eval:05Mar94